

July 20 1996

Wednesday October 23 1996

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The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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Ian Katz meets the woman who saved the New Yorker

Queen Tina



...from a pear weather

John Richardson's new biography

Picasso's search for a wife



62 pages 10/11

Society

Self defence on two wheels

G2 page 8/9

Howard opts for the quick fix

Plans to protect victims dropped at last minute

Alan Travis Home Affairs Editor

THE Government will today announce a massive extension of its "prison works" policy of jailing more criminals for longer...

The publication of the Crime Bill on Friday will confirm that the Government has ditched plans for a national system of identity cards...

Crime bill

- What's in: Minimum three years for repeat burglars, Minimum seven years for repeat drug dealers, Automatic life sentences for repeat serious sex and violent offenders...



term than a first-time rapist would lead to all other sentences being increased. The Archbishop of Canterbury, the retired Lord Chief Justice, senior judges and criminologists have all warned that Mr Howard's American-style proposals are based on "flimsy and dubious evidence"...



Sarah Holt (second left) and Sophie Bird (second right) leaving court with relatives yesterday after being freed from their jail sentences for contempt

Women jailed for contempt freed

Without the two central witnesses in the case, Fryatt's trial in September at Chelmsford crown court for grievous bodily harm with intent came to an abrupt end. The prosecution offered no evidence and the judge ordered the jury to acquit him...

Quit or risk revolt, former top aide warns Yeltsin

Ailing president controlled by daughter says ex-bodyguard

David Hearst in Moscow

ALEXANDER Kozhakov, the Russian president's former bodyguard, yesterday said Boris Yeltsin was not fit to govern and should hand over power to his prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, or face a popular revolt against the clique of advisers around him...

amid allegations that they were mounting a coup. The general is now exacting his revenge, and his revelations will deepen further the crisis of power in the Kremlin. Gen Kozhakov is now campaigning with General Alexander Lebed, the security council chief who was sacked by Mr Yeltsin last week...



Kozhakov: Keeper of the president's secrets

agree our ideology is a non-Communist one, but you mustn't behave this way with the Communists. We had to meet Zyuganov. He accused Mr Chubais of trying to engineer a situation where he would take over as president. The clique of advisers around Mr Yeltsin were already working on contingency plans if the president did not survive the heart operation he is due to have, he said...

Table of contents: Britain, World News, Finance, Sport, Comment and Letters 8; Obituaries 10; G2; Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 16; TV 16

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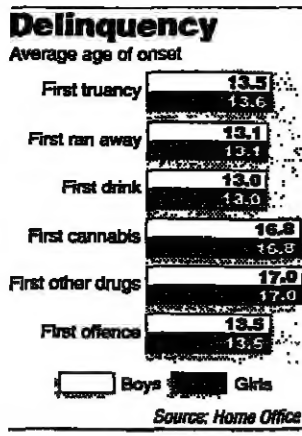
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There's nothing wrong with crusading for citizenship and civility, they say. It's just that no one How the class of '96 switched off at

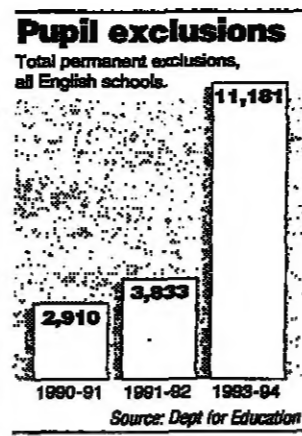


"It's hopeless now, cos there are so many supply teachers. I've got them for science, maths and English and they're the main subjects. They haven't a clue about what they're doing."

Mark Varley, a 14-year-old from The Ridings, Halifax



Mark Varley



Citizenship classes "would be a very good idea, but it's no good giving them to teenagers because they could already be corrupted by then."

Amarjit Bangar, a 17-year-old from Cranford school, Southall, west London



Amarjit Bangar

While political leaders were queuing up yesterday to endorse calls for a new moral framework, teenagers on half-term break from schools in Halifax, West Yorkshire, were describing how they manage to survive existing morality—or lack of it.

It won't make her experiences any easier, but there have been worse examples of violence at the Ridings. The night came when a firework was blown up last week in the face of a long-serving technology teacher.

From beneath his obligatory peak-at-the-back baseball cap, Mark Varley, 14, agreed. "Trouble began when they joined Ovenden and Holme-field schools. Separate them again and we'd be on our way back to normal." The same story is told over and over again.

When the Class of Westminster talk in terms of "getting to grips with parenting" or "teaching decent citizenship values", as they did in biscuits yesterday, the teenage Class of '96 switches off. To them, such talk is like a foreign language.

Take the idea of setting up an award for good citizenship, first floated by Frances Lawrence, the wife of the murdered headmaster, Philip, in her manifesto for a new morality launched on Monday. The award was embraced warmly by ministers, but how would teenagers in Devon greet it?

deed, she has probably jeopardised any chance of earning a good citizen award: "If I was the only one to get one I would feel funny because my friends would take the piss."

It's not that teenagers have any resistance to the call for a new morality — far from it, most seemed to approve of imposing greater discipline — they just had little faith in adults' ability to pull it off.

In Southall, west London, pupils at the Cranford community school had doubts about the efficacy of the proposals. Satinder Chaggar, 17, accepted there was a discipline problem, particularly among boys, in her school, but added: "I don't think lessons on being a good citizen would make a difference — the kids who would probably need to go would not turn up."

Public urged to act as abuse 'harms 1 million children a year'

David Brindie, Social Services Correspondent

PEOPLE are too reluctant to intervene if they think children are being abused by parents or carers, the report of a national commission of inquiry into child abuse says today.

The report, *Childhood Matters*, fuels the debate about public morality by arguing society needs to accept a common responsibility for child welfare and acknowledge it cannot be left to professionals. It suggests 1 million children are harmed every year in the UK.

However, there will be reservations about what the commission means by "abuse". It has adopted what it admits is a broad definition, that it is "anything which individuals, institutions or processes do, or fail to do, which directly or indirectly harms children, or damages their prospects of

safe and healthy development into adulthood". A video made to promote the report depicts a woman shouting angrily at her young daughter for dropping

strong commission, said she would consider such an incident "very much to be emotional abuse". One could easily infer that it was not the first time the mother had rated the child in ways damaging to her self-esteem.

Sir Roger Sims, Conservative MP for Chislehurst and another commission member, said the aim was not to encourage interfering "nosy parkers", but the vast majority of people would do nothing in such circumstances.

The commission, which sat part-time for two years, was set up by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty

to Children. The charity spent £305,000 on its work and research it commissioned. Jim Harding, NSPCC director, described the report as a landmark in child protection, which "must find its way into the hearts and minds of everyone in the country". Eileen Hayes, the charity's child abuse prevention adviser, admitted it was difficult to define points at which people should intervene to stop suspected abuse. But she said: "A lot of it is about instinct — and it's better to be safe than sorry."

A virtuoso show of intimacy

First night

Judith Mackrell

JAVIER DE FRUTOS is a dancer famous for talking off his clothes — not because he is getting paid much money for it, or even because he has an outrageously hunky body to display. Simply he seems fascinated by the contradiction between public confrontation and personal vulnerability that occurs when he dances naked and alone on stage.

musical Gypsy, is a choreographic travesty about his displacement in America, and about his aspirations to be a performer. To a brash opening number he flicks through a lightning display of histrionic gestures as if practising in front of a mirror.

Contempt case women freed

continued from page 1 Court in London, the two women, their mothers and other friends and relatives left with reporters from the Sun, which had paid the costs of their appeal.



A battered Sarah Holt after the alleged attack

Lord Justice Roch, sitting with Mr Justice Jowitt and Her Honour Judge Ann Goddard QC, said the women had done little to help themselves. The pair had been given legal aid and told to find solicitors after the halting of the Fryatt case. Ms Holt did not bother, while Ms Bird failed to turn up to a second appointment.

Neither woman revealed to Mr Justice Pearson that they had been subject to intimidation by Fryatt, who was phoning Ms Holt from prison until police intervened, and his friends. They told him they were afraid, but had not received actual threats.

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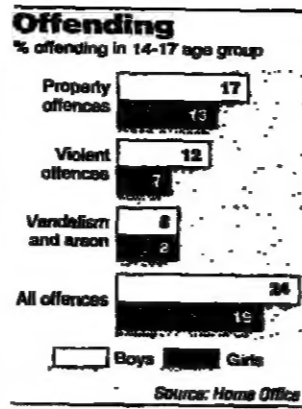
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Handwritten note: 10/23/96

listens any more. Guardian reporters heard what they had to say about the debate on values moralistic lectures and double talk



Tim Rastall



"Some people weren't brought up to know the difference between right and wrong."

Tim Rastall, 15, of St Clement Lanes, Watford

"Just because someone does something, it doesn't mean you have to."

Catrina Robson, 14, from Woodhey High, Greater Manchester



Catrina Robson

Minister steps in to Halifax row as teachers ballot

THE RIDINGS SCHOOL

Martin Wainwright

GILLIAN Shepherd, the Education Secretary, yesterday called for a full report on the disciplinary crisis at West Yorkshire comprehensive where one in 10 of the pupils are on the exclusion register and considered out of control by staff.

Police and council officials in Halifax are investigating a catalogue of assaults on teachers at the Ridings school, Ovenden, which serves two of the most deprived council estates in the Yorkshire and Humberside region.

Thirty of the high school's 12 staff began a postal strike ballot yesterday organised by the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

It follows the worst week in the school's disrupted history since it was formed in 1993 by the merger of two rival comprehensives. A teacher was injured by a firework flung by a pupil, another was taken to hospital after being stoned, and a third was set on and punched. Ridings pupils on half-term described how verbal abuse and the flinging of missiles including cans of urine were regular occurrences at the school.

Despair at the situation could lead to direct supervision by the Department for Education, which signalled yesterday that the chief inspector of schools will monitor next month's long-arranged Ofsted inspection of the Ridings. If the visit bears out staff allegations, Mrs Shepherd is expected to send in a task force.

She said yesterday: "I have called for an urgent report from Calderdale education authority on what is going on at this school."

The inquiry may produce unpalatable evidence that the Ridings has been made a de facto secondary modern school by the local survival of grammar schools and the presence of two "opted out" grant-maintained schools.

Alice Mahon, Labour MP for Halifax, said: "This town is an example of what a divisive education can do. We have two grammar schools, which have resources flung at them, two opted-out schools which do not have to take disruptive pupils and then four other, under-resourced schools."

Calderdale council held a second day of emergency meetings yesterday after Ridings teachers handed a dossier of 61 names, out of the 620 pupil roll, of children considered "unteachable".

Ian Jennings, the council's education director, said talks were continuing and governors, staff and the council were hoping that the problems could be quietly and effectively sorted out.

The council is proposing extra staff at the school, which already relies on supply teachers, and a disciplinary task force. The school has tried to impose a Discipline For Learning programme this year, but disruptive pupils have refused to take part and, in some cases, were backed by their parents.

Karen Stansfield, Ridings' head, and one of her deputies are to leave early at the end of the year, blaming exhaustion and disappointment at lack of progress in solving disciplinary problems.

comment favourably on citizenship classes was Amarjit Bangar, 17. "It would be a very good idea, but you have to give them to children when they are young. It's no good giving them to teenagers because they could already be corrupted by them."

Where young people's world view and that of the adults who are trying to reach them appear to correspond is a belief in the central role of the family in the fostering of morality. Pupils from across the country said no amount of discipline in schools would

work if they were allowed to run riot at home.

"You tend to follow the example of your parents," said Gareth Edmundson, 15, from Woodhey high school in Ramsbottom, Manchester. "If they were swearing all the time, you could well end up picking up their habits."

Tim Rastall, 15, expressed the same thought in Watford's Harlequins shopping centre where he was killing time. "My parents taught me what was right and wrong. But at school, some people are always getting into trouble —

you can tell they weren't brought up to know the difference."

Outside the centre, Laura Brown, also 15, was highly sceptical about the value of moral guidance in schools. "It's impossible to teach young people about morals. Whose beliefs are you going to teach them? If you just lecture young people about what older people think then society is never going to change."

So there's a clear moral lesson for the Education Secretary: Don't lecture us, Mrs Shepard.

But if lecturing is ineffective, what do young people propose instead? Back at the Ridings in Halifax, Kelly is at least in agreement that something urgent must be done.

"The bullying and trouble are really awful. You get gangs with leaders who goad the others into doing stupid things. If they say no, the leaders say: 'That's it, you're out of the gang.'"

The "stupid things", Mark expands outside Ridings' deceptively neat, well-gardened front entrance, include throwing stones and fireworks.

"Boys piss in cans and throw them at the girls."

Meanwhile, Mark says, discipline inside school is "hopeless" because there are so many supply teachers. "I've got them for science, maths and English and they're the main subjects, aren't they? And for geography. They haven't a clue about what they're doing."

Kelly has her own preferred solution to the seemingly endemic unruliness, which is certainly too controversial for the Government to adopt so close to an election: "Expel

them all. Bring back the cane."

Politicians hoping for practical tips will be similarly disappointed by the suggestion of another Halifax youth: "There's a teacher who has a thing he can do on your ear with a bunch of keys. If you try anything stupid, he makes sure you never want to do it again."

REPORT: Edward Pilkington, Martin Wainwright, Vivek Chaudhary, David Ward, Stuart Millar and Geoffrey Gibbs.

Code of discipline improved school

Stevi Bloomfield found teachers and pupils had reason to welcome controls

THREE years ago my school, Ninestiles, a Birmingham comprehensive, brought in a scheme to keep us under control — Discipline for Learning (DFL). While discipline wasn't as bad as at some schools, many of us realised things could be better.

DFL is a system which is supposed to punish misbehaving pupils who disrupt others, while praising

those that abide by the rules and do well.

A series of consequences has been arranged; the first and second are warnings, the third lines, the fourth a detention, the fifth isolation and the sixth suspension. Praise can be given through vouchers, which are put into a draw for £5 or certificates, and can be put into your Record of Achievement, for future employers.

Certain misdemeanours carry heavy consequences. Smoking, fighting, or swearing at teachers are automatic Cs or Cs, whereas failure to do homework is only C1.

Most teachers welcomed DFL as it gave them a proper system to control their classes. Sceptical pupils felt that the weaker teachers would start using consequences as often as weak referees give out yellow cards. Since the scheme was introduced there has been a marked improvement in general behaviour and attitudes to work. A lot

of the credit for this has been put down to DFL, but in particular to isolation. The isolation room is full of separate wooden booths which stop pupils communicating with each other. A teacher watches over them from a desk at the side as they sit there in complete silence. Many pupils have come out of the isolation room vowing never to get in that much trouble again. Eight in 10 haven't.

Since DFL the number of pupils getting five or more GCSE A-C grades has risen from 18 per cent to 30 per cent.

Mainland on alert for IRA attack

Security services warn bombers planning revenge for setbacks

THE security services are anticipating a major IRA attack on the mainland, it was confirmed yesterday. They believe the IRA will want to demonstrate that its ability to strike has been unimpaired by recent arrests and the death of a member during a police operation last month.

But Republican sources in Northern Ireland indicated yesterday that the IRA was now "persuadable" on a ceasefire, provided "real negotiations" were on offer.

Scotland Yard warned of a "continuing campaign of violence" by terrorists. "We are entering dangerous months," Assistant Commissioner David Veness said.

The threat will mean particularly tight security around today's state opening of Parliament.

As well as the possibility of a big bombing, the security forces are on guard for any attempt to assassinate a high-profile political figure. Protection for a number of VIPs in Northern Ireland has been strengthened.

The IRA has often been struck to demonstrate that after the death of a member or a failed operation it remained capable of carrying out a "spectacular".

An IRA man, Diarmuid O'Neill, was killed during an operation in west London on September 23 in which police recovered 10 tonnes of explosives. The discovery was seen as a huge blow to IRA morale, coming after other failed bombings in the capital and

the death of Ed O'Brien in the Aldwych on February 18, when the bomb he was carrying exploded on a bus.

One theory held by security sources is that the IRA believes there is unlikely to be political movement on the peace process before a general election, and that its best tactic is to show it has the ability to continue bombing.

Senior Republicans in Belfast agree the coming months will be dangerous. But they argue that this is merely stating the obvious, and that nobody welcomes a resumed campaign of violence.

"The view is that the IRA leadership is still persuadable, indeed would probably like to be persuaded to call a new ceasefire," a source said. "But that is not going to happen unless the British government does more to convince people that real political negotiations will take place."

The source said new conditions for creating a ceasefire were "entirely reasonable".

They include an acceptance by Downing Street that de-commissioning of paramilitary weapons will not take place until a political settlement has been reached, and a time frame for talks so Unionists cannot stall indefinitely.

There would also have to be greater generosity towards releasing prisoners. Given these assurances, the source said, a ceasefire was probably obtainable. Nevertheless, the manner in which the Government treated the last ceasefire had created deep anger.

"There is a feeling of depressed resignation among Republicans about the immediate future. There is a view that the British were trying to defeat the IRA by other means during the long ceasefire, and it is going to be very difficult to restore it unless the British government does something about that."

Unless there was movement from London, it was inevitable that the IRA would carry out further attacks.

When veteran writer James Trow accused Brown in a resignation letter of "kissing the ass of celebrity", Tina Brown's reply was honed for public consumption. "I am distraught at your defection," she wrote, "but since you never actually write anything I should say I am notionally distraught."

G2 cover story

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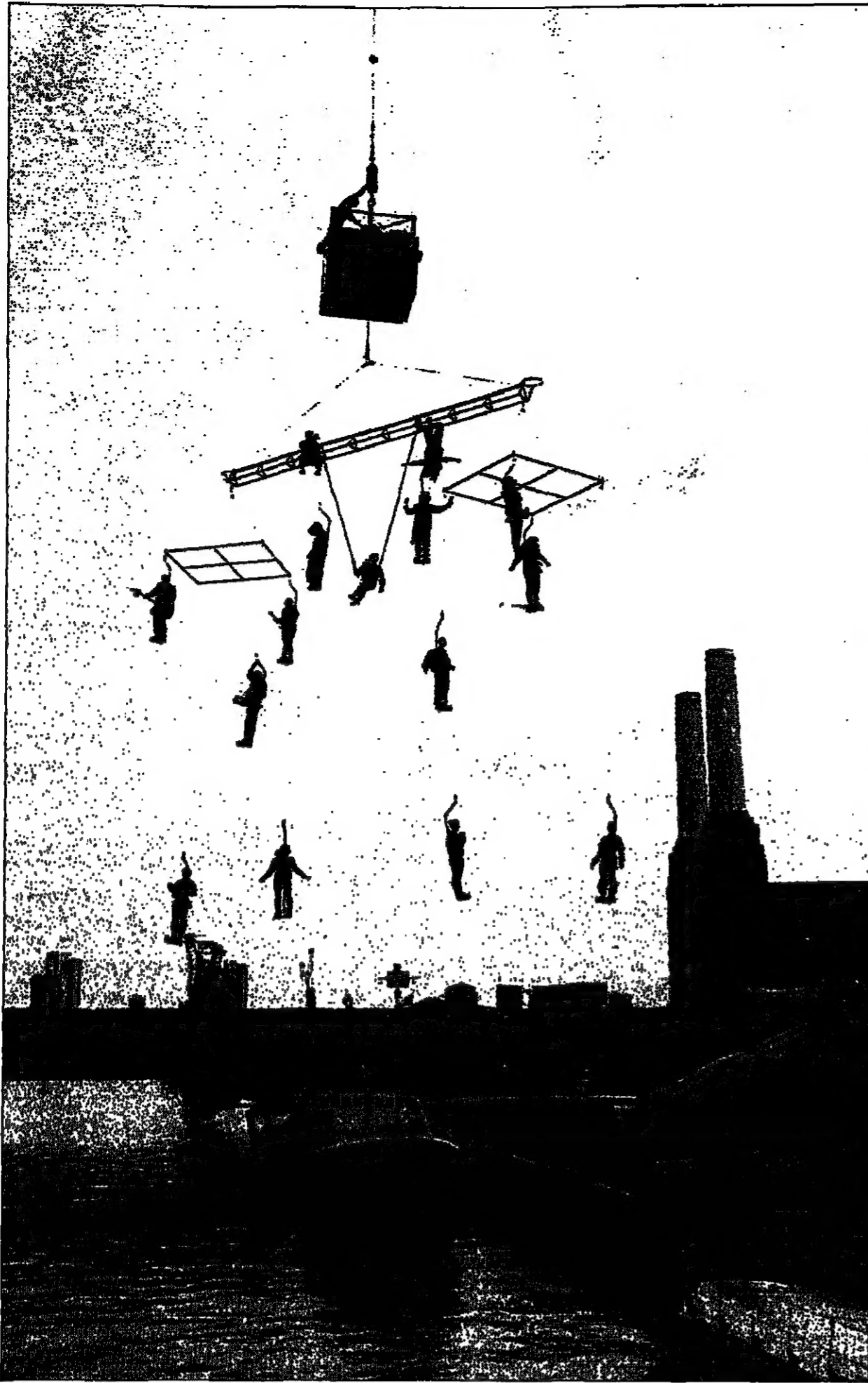
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Hanging out... performers from the Circus of Horrors position themselves over the River Thames in London during their successful bid yesterday to break the world record for people on a human mobile. PHOTOGRAPH: KARL PROUSE

No secure hospital place for stalker facing life

Problem 'stems from transfer of prisoners to hospitals'

Owen Bowcott

A CONVICTED sex offender who stalked a 20-year-old dental nurse — plying her with gifts and threatening her with a wallpaper scraper — was yesterday told sentencing was being delayed due to a shortage of secure psychiatric beds.

Clarence Morris, 37, who is being held in a medium-security mental unit in Hackney, east London, was told he would have to return to Southwark crown court, central London, in two months to be detained indefinitely at Rampton high-security mental hospital in Nottinghamshire.

Lack of spaces in medium- and maximum-security mental units was a national problem, Professor Jeremy Cold told the hearing. The main cause was prisons transferring more disturbed inmates to hospitals.

Morris, of Poplar, east London, has been diagnosed as suffering from paranoid



Perry Southall, who was 'stalked' by Clarence Morris (right)



schizophrenia with a psychopathic disorder.

Last month he was found guilty of common assault on the nurse, Perry Southall, and of causing her actual bodily harm. In an eight-month period, the court heard, there had been 200 incidents. Miss Southall had twice been threatened with a scraper and received 35 "love letters".

Morris also delivered bottles of champagne and women's underwear to the east London dental practice where she worked. She described the ordeal as "terrifying" and said it left her unable to sleep properly.

The case provoked controversy during the trial when Morris's barrister, David Stanton, used his final address to brand Miss Southall a "queen bee dressed to kill".

He said she wore a leather outfit to court to give evidence, knew she was attractive, liked men's attention and encouraged her resemblance to the over-exposed, "sexually active" Baywatch actress Pamela Anderson. Women who portrayed themselves in that way "ran the risk, particularly these days, of being on the unwelcome end of male attraction". His remarks drew a swift

riposte from the judge, who told him he wished to disassociate himself "from your comments... which ought never to have been made".

A private member's bill may be introduced in the coming session of Parliament to make stalking a criminal offence, and providing for sentences of up to five years.

The Prison Service yesterday confirmed it has increasingly moved disturbed inmates into secure hospitals in recent years under the Mental Health Act in 1983/91, the number placed in secure units was 226. By 1994/95, that had risen to 715.

Rampton, one of the three maximum-security mental hospitals in England, said yesterday it had a "short-term backlog". A spokesman said: "There is a widely recognised shortage of medium-security beds in the system."

Rampton, which now holds 488 patients, is — like Broadmoor and Ashworth — now an NHS Health Authority. Majorie Wallace, of the mental health charity Samaritans, warned that the beds shortage was becoming critical. "This is a scandal which could have been predicted before hospitals and beds were closed. The whole system is gridlocked because of the shortage of all kinds of psychiatric beds," she said.

Concert tickets going for a song

Hospital freebies help to keep operas' audience sizes healthy

Dan Glatzer Arts Correspondent

BORED standing in line at hospital waiting for an operation? Why not go to the opera instead? Hospitals are the main clients for papering the practice indulged in by promoters of giving away tickets to fill the gaps in an auditorium.

After the "house full" signs have gone up, some of the audience at many operas and classical music concerts may be there for free, or for a nominal sum.

A spokesman for the English National Opera in London confirmed yesterday that the practice does

take place.

"We keep lists of deserving groups, mostly people who are underprivileged and might not be able to go to the opera on a regular basis."

"If there is space in the house we contact groups at the last minute. There is more of a buzz with a full house, it creates a better atmosphere and increases enjoyment. But we are careful not to undermine the paying audience."

At St Bartholomew's Hospital in London, there is a hotline for staff to ring. At University College Hospital a spokesman said: "We get batches of complimentary

tickets. As they become available they are sent through to our hospital volunteers' organisation and to our social club. They are free and we are not aware of any money changing hands."

David Whelton, managing director of the Philharmonia Orchestra, which opposes the practice, said: "What's happening is an unethical application of Arts Council subsidy. Other orchestras are getting their grant on the basis of false figures."

"It also means that the Arts Council believes that the public is interested in certain minority works, when in fact they haven't been interested in buying tickets at all."

But a spokeswoman for the Arts Council denied that non-paying members

of the audience are included in figures which help to determine funding levels.

"Orchestras and other groups are required to give detailed figures, broken down between paid for and complimentary seats. We are aware of the practice and we do keep a close eye on it."

"What matters is the quality of the work. We do not say that if you don't get 80 per cent attendance we will cut your funding."

Frank Baulston, a chef at University College Hospital who organises the distribution of tickets, said: "I don't make any money out of this. They have used me for 12 years because I guarantee bums on seats."

He added: "Never say that it is impossible for one person to fill up a theatre."

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'Rasputin' says Yeltsin too ill to rule

In an exclusive interview with David Hearst in Moscow, Yeltsin's former bodyguard General Alexander Korzhakov tells of his fears for Russia. He says that, with the president in hospital, power is in the hands of chief of staff Anatoli Chubais, and this 'regency' threatens national stability

HE HAS been called the Rasputin of Russian politics. Some said he was as important to President Boris Yeltsin as the secret police chief was to Stalin. But yesterday, speaking in a secret suite in an anonymous central Moscow hotel, Lieutenant-General Alexander Korzhakov, who looks most of all like a sporting country gentleman, laughed and said he was no monster. Throwing his arms wide open, he smiled: "Well, what do you think? Do I look like Beria?"

In his first formal interview with a Western journalist, the Russian leader's former bodyguard talked with surprising candour about the man he shielded for so long. His aim was clear: to convince his listener that Mr Yeltsin was too ill to carry on, that power was actually being wielded by the president's chief of staff, Anatoli Chubais, who was acting as a regent, and that this regency was dangerous for Russia and could provoke a revolt.

Was this self-serving stuff? Since being sacked by Mr Yeltsin earlier this year, Gen Korzhakov has switched sides spectacularly and now supports the self-styled patriot General Alexander Lebed. It is widely believed that if new elections were held, Gen Lebed would win hands down. So is Gen Korzhakov not accusing Mr Chubais of playing the same lago-type role that he himself was accused of playing four months ago when he was in power?

He denied the comparison. But there was something about Gen Korzhakov's blunt, soldierly style that demanded attention to his words. Gen Korzhakov was for 11 years the man closest to Mr Yeltsin and he speaks from experience. This is the closest one can get to an insider's account of the twilight days and months of Mr Yeltsin's presidency.

"The country needs an active president. It is rolling

down the hill fast. I am not for pre-term elections, that must be decided by the Duma and the Council of the Federation. But so many things have already been said about transferring Yeltsin's powers to [Viktor] Chernomyrdin [the prime minister who will become acting president during the forthcoming heart operation], then let these powers be transferred.

"I am for doing things by the constitution and in the constitution it is written that in the case of a persistent loss of working ability [by the president] — and don't you see this persistent loss of working capacity? — then Chernomyrdin must take the reins himself."

Was it his view that Mr Yeltsin, under the terms of the constitution, was no longer fit to govern?

"I don't want to answer such a question, because I have told you before that I am not going to say bad things about the president. This is unethical."

"I liked very much how Lebed answered when he was provoked by a rude question about the president. He said: 'This is an old, ill man and never hit a man when he is down.' What I say is, if there is an old, ill man, let a healthy man take the power in his hand."

Every day in Moscow, presidential aides repeatedly assert how "in touch" Mr Yeltsin is, and how hard he works on his documents. Gen Korzhakov has a different version of events.

When Gen Lebed was sacked last week as secretary of the Security Council, Mr Yeltsin signed the decree before the television cameras — very slowly. Gen Korzhakov commented: "We were given a spectacular demonstration of how artistically he signed the decree himself... If he was signing all the decrees in such a way — what do you think? — how many decrees would you be able to sign in one day? You have seen."

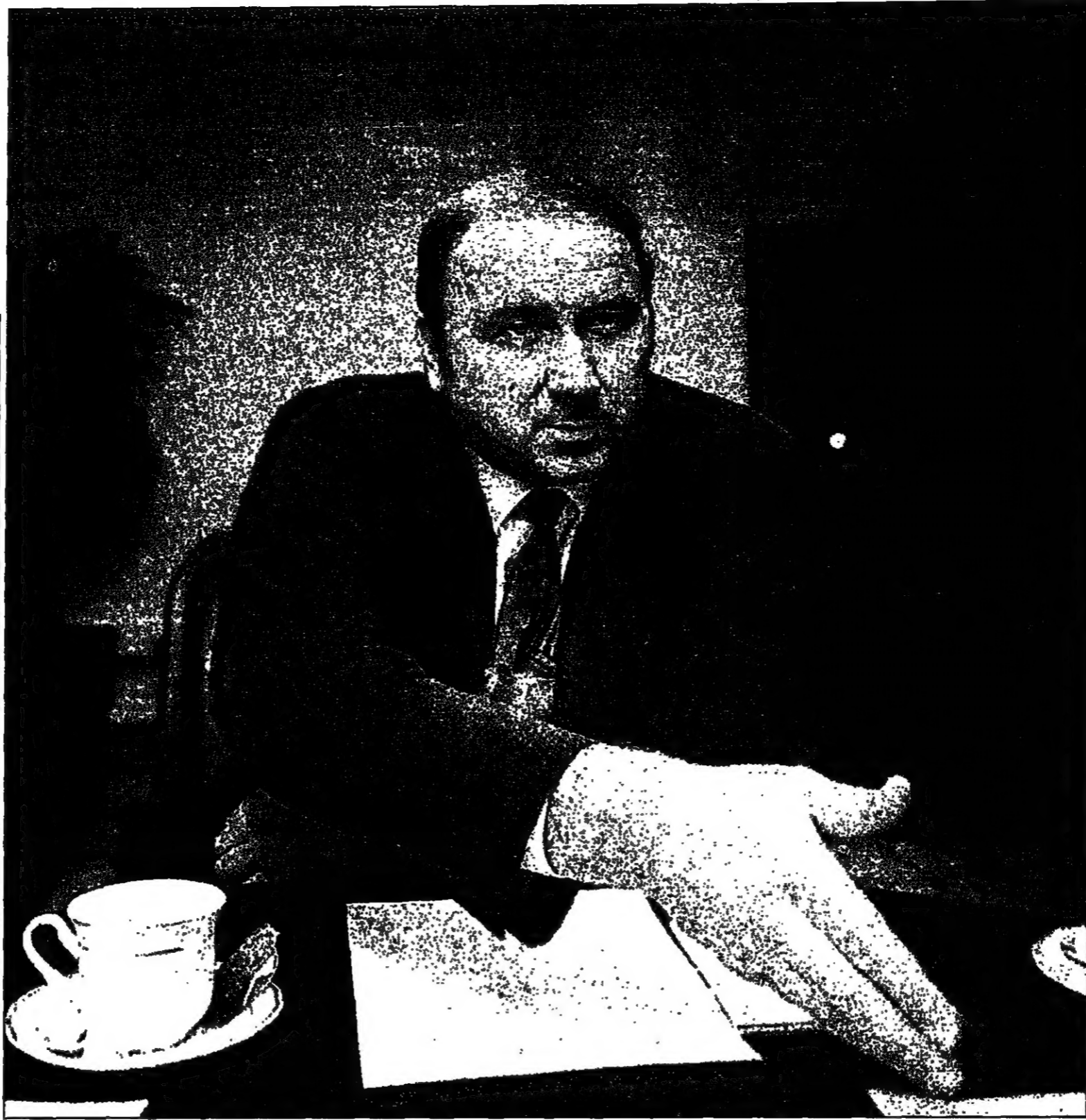
The former bodyguard made no secret of the president's isolation from the country he was supposed to be running.

"Yeltsin is far from reality with insisting a senior commander of the armed forces in an article, the Anatolian news agency said. — Reuter.

Tribesmen arrests
Yemeni security forces have arrested 18 members of the al-Qatani tribe, which kidnapped a French diplomat in the capital Sana'a on Monday. The diplomat has still not been found. — Reuter.

Swedish clincher
Sweden's plans to reform the UN Security Council, the foreign minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen said yesterday. — AP.

Fonda worked up
Jane Fonda stepped into New York's cable-television battle between her husband Ted Turner and the Fox News Channel by accusing the mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, of siding with Fox because it employs his wife. — AP.



Mr Korzhakov yesterday with a letter signed by Mr Yeltsin's doctors warning of the health hazards of electioneering PHOTOGRAPH: GLEB KOSORUKOV

him as 'Lenin in Gorki' [the last days of Lenin in his country home]. But I have more associations with Gorbachev in Faros [the Crimean dacha Gorbachev was isolated in during the August 1991 coup].

"But there Gorbachev could get some information from the radio. The president has television and radio but he does not like to see the television and even less to listen to the radio. He never liked it and now because of his illness I think he is not even reading the newspapers."

By the way, Gen Korzhakov adds with a smile, it was not he who selected what newspapers the president read. That was another service.

Gen Korzhakov described Mr Yeltsin as a man completely in the hands of his younger daughter Tatiana

Djachenko, and Anatoli Chubais, who he described as a regent totally controlling all appointments and preparing decrees for the president to sign. "It is very easy to get your man [into a position that you want] because Boris Nikolayevich gets the documents

He has been described as Lenin in Gorki. I see him more as Gorbachev in Faros'

he signs without as a rule consulting with the people who are appointed. He completely believes his team."

"Tatya [his daughter] brings him the papers, and the papers are all prepared in Chubais' headquarters. You know that [Yegor] Gaidar [the former radical democratic acting prime minister] now has a stable place there. Everything is as it was before."

Gen Korzhakov claimed that Mr Chubais sits at the prime minister's right-hand in cabinet meetings and that it is Mr Chubais who pulls the levers of power.

Gen Korzhakov's expects Mr Chernomyrdin to be the next to be dismissed, followed by the interior minister Anatoli Kulkov, the man who clashed with and won the fight against Gen Lebed over Chechnya.

Gen Korzhakov denied ever advising Mr Yeltsin to cancel this summer's presidential elections, but said he did want them postponed. He produced a letter signed in May by the Kremlin's medical team saying the president was exhausted by campaigning and that if the campaign continued it would be "a danger for the life of the president."

But why is the Chubais regency so dangerous for Russia? "We have a regent with a president alive, this is extremely dangerous for Russia. I wouldn't like things to get to a level of a popular revolt, but events are moving this way by themselves."

In seeking to postpone the elections, Gen Korzhakov said, he had been pushing for a compromise with the communists, and had even got Mr Yeltsin to name a day when he would meet Gennady Zyuganov, the leader of the Communist-nationalist alliance. The meeting was not held.

"I told the president several times, 'Boris Nikolayevich, it is necessary to meet them... there is a possibility of agreeing on a coalition government. Why fight all the time?'"

The Communists had the majority in the parliament. They were shouting about the necessity of taking care of the working people. So we could have given them all the portfolios for the 'social ministries'. Even the post of prime minister could have been negotiated. But all this would only happen if the talks started, and it didn't happen."

Gen Korzhakov said that even though he has been out of office for four months, he was still well-informed.

"I am physically cut off, this doesn't mean that I don't have contacts, that I don't have informers, that I don't have my own head. I see what is going on."



'The country needs an active president. It is rolling down the hill very fast'

'I wouldn't like things to get to the level of a popular revolt, but events are moving this way'

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'We were given a spectacular demonstration of how artistically he signed the decree himself'

'He has been described as Lenin in Gorki. I see him more as Gorbachev in Faros'

New routes to union

John Palmer in Brussels

FRANCE and Germany have given their clearest warning yet that they are ready to find other ways to move towards closer economic and political union if Britain blocks their right to do so within the European Union.

It accompanied their formal presentation to the Maastricht treaty review conference in Brussels yesterday of proposals to end one country's power to veto a decision by the others to co-operate more closely.

The two countries say their "flexibility" strategy, which allows "enhanced co-operation" between EU countries who want it, does not have any intention to exclude Britain from closer integration.

In effect, however, they have served notice on John Major that if Britain stops EU countries co-operating more

closely they may do it without Britain.

A core of EU countries are likely to want improved co-operation on economic action to support a single currency, foreign and security policy, immigration and asylum laws, and the fight against cross-border crime.

The German minister for European affairs, Werner Hoyer, said: "We want to leave the door open to all to join us, if necessary at a later date."

"But if we are denied the right to enhanced co-operation in the European Union we will have to do it outside in various other arenas, on what will inevitably be a more selective basis."

Mr Hoyer said France and Germany were concerned about the EU's ability to act effectively in the future, as it expands from 15 to up to 30 member states.

"Flexibility is going to be a big long-term project and a major item in the review of

the Maastricht treaty," his French counterpart, Michel Barnier, told a press conference in Brussels. "Perhaps the UK will eventually change its views on this issue."

The long-expected push on flexibility poses a dilemma for the British government.

It is happy with the system under which any EU country can opt out of moves to closer union, as Britain has done on the single currency and social chapter. It is also ready to join selective security missions, as in Bosnia.

But it insists on having a veto over each proposal for closer co-operation.

Italy said yesterday that it would welcome a review of the decision to exclude Libya from the EU co-operation agreement with Mediterranean countries.

The foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, told parliament there were signs that Libya was changing its attitude towards the West.

News in brief

Prison fire kills 30
More than 30 prisoners were killed in a riot and fire at a jail in central Caracas yesterday, Venezuela's justice ministry said.

The national guard later took control of the La Platanilla prison. — AP.

Lawyer shot dead
Gilson Nogueira, a human rights lawyer investigating a series of suspected death-squad murders in north-east Brazil, was killed by unknown gunmen at the weekend, officials said. — Reuter.

Islamists charged
Turkey has charged two Islamist journalists yesterday with insulting a senior commander of the armed forces in an article, the Anatolian news agency said. — Reuter.

Tribesmen arrests
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Jane Fonda stepped into New York's cable-television battle between her husband Ted Turner and the Fox News Channel by accusing the mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, of siding with Fox because it employs his wife. — AP.

How China killed a revolution

Forty years ago, Russia almost gave in to Hungary's revolt — but not for long. Julian Berger reports from Budapest

Forty years after the Hungarian uprising, a newly unearthed document shows that the divided and anxious Soviet leadership seriously considered pulling its troops out and giving its East European satellites a freer rein.

But the archives show that this liberalism lasted less than 24 hours — until China weighed in on the side of the hardliners, already bolstered by the dawning realisation in Moscow that the rebels wanted not just to reverse Soviet hegemony but to overthrow communism in Hungary altogether.

The ambitious dreams of the revolution were its downfall.

Forty years ago today Hungarian students and workers marched through Budapest to demand democratic reforms and the reinstatement of the reformist communist leader Imre Nagy, deposed by hardliners the previous year. The demonstrations turned to open revolt that evening, when rioters pulled down a statue of Stalin and tried to take over the radio station.

An initial Soviet attempt to suppress the revolt failed when Hungarian tanks sided with the insurgents.

They took on Red Army tanks with handguns and Molotov cocktails and for a few days beat them back.

New research by Russian and Hungarian historians

should be withdrawn from Budapest: if necessary, from all of Hungary. This is a military and political lesson for us."

Nikita Khrushchev, who was then struggling to assert his ascendancy in the presidium, argued that Moscow's only alternative to a military quagmire was to offer its East European neighbours greater leeway.

Janos Rainer, a historian who has analysed the archives, wrote in *Hungarian Quarterly*: "The possibility of the withdrawal of troops flashed up for a moment, as did the possibility of a different kind of relationship within the [communist] camp."

One of the factors which turned withdrawal into invasion appears to have been the role of the Chinese Communist Party. China was pressing for an equal leading role in world communism and was vocal about events in Europe.

The post-Stalinist Soviet leadership, seeking a reduction in world tensions, to enable it to rebuild the Soviet economy, was anxious to avoid a rift with Beijing.

Khrushchev met a Chinese delegation led by Liu Shao Qi immediately after the October 30 announcement, and was told that Moscow was being too soft and that "the troops must stay in Budapest and in Hungary."

This was a reversal in China's stance. Csaba Bekes, of the Institute for the History of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, says the Chinese leadership realised that by late October the uprising "was not just anti-Soviet, but anti-com-

munist. And of course they were right."

While most Hungarian intellectuals around Nagy saw the uprising as a means to create a better, constitutionally-based form of communism, the workers' councils which had sprouted across Hungary all over the country by late October were demanding a full return to parliamentary democracy "Why fight all the time?"

Mr Bekes denies that the new evidence proves the uprising — in which more than 3,000 Hungarians died — was in vain. He believes the Soviet-imposed regime which succeeded Nagy always had to bear 1956 in mind, and was consequently careful to emphasise production of consumer goods — Hungary's "socialist communism."

"You can't evaluate a revolution like an economic process or a party convention," Mr Bekes says. "A revolution is always something irrational. The results of all these freedom fights are somehow retained. They are never in vain."

Danes to block EU action

John Palmer in Brussels

EUROPEAN Union plans to retaliate against the United States if it penalises European companies trading with Cuba, Iran and Libya appeared close to collapse yesterday after last minute opposition from the Danish government.

Locked in a legal battle

with its Eurosceptic critics, the Danish government fears that any EU move to impose counter-sanctions would be condemned by the Danish high court as unconstitutional.

EU foreign ministers, who meet in Luxembourg on Monday, had been expected to finalise counter-measures to deter the United States from implementing the Helms-Burton

Act. The act allows US courts to penalise firms found to be "trafficking" with companies nationalised by the Cuban government. Washington has also introduced sanctions against companies investing in Iran and Libya.

"We will try to get the Danes to change their minds before a decision is made on Monday," a commission spokesman said.

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FinanceGuardian

Merger of rival networks promises to slash phone charges and create revolution in on-line services

Notebook



Derek Burnley (left), chief executive of Bell Canada International, confirms the deal with Richard Brown (centre), chief executive of Cable and Wireless, and Fred Salerno of Nynex

Formidable, but don't cheer yet



Mark Milner

CABLE & Wireless looked in a sad way just a few months ago. Its top management had been shaken by a long-running feud between its then chairman and chief executive, which culminated in the departure of both. A plan to merge with BT had collapsed, leaving an apparently gaping hole in its strategic thinking. How times change. Yesterday C&W showed a very different face, presenting itself as the leading player in a merger of telecommunications and cable interests which could reshape the information industry. Of course it remains to be seen how Cable & Wireless Communications, as the new venture will be called, will turn out in practice. It will also be some time before it is running at full capacity. The cable partners are not expected to complete wiring up their franchise areas until 1998.

Feeling good

JUST for a change, the Confederation of British Industry's report on the state of manufacturing industry makes cheery reading — not least for the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke. Output is at a 15-month high, stock levels show signs of starting to unwind, unit costs have fallen, spending on plant and machinery is tipped to rise, domestic demand is picking up and the rise in the pound — up 6 per cent on a trade-weighted basis since August — has not hit exporters, yet.

C&W in £6bn plan to become leading player in UK cable

Patrick Donovan and Nicholas Bannister

CABLE & Wireless yesterday pledged to slash the cost of telephone charges and provide on-line viewers with everything from Internet access to latest release movies as it unveiled a \$6 billion plan to merge with three rival cable television companies. C&W chief executive Richard Brown promised a "revolution for consumers" as he announced that the company was set to become the biggest force in the UK cable industry with a market share of more than 36 per cent.

UK cable operators Videotron, Nynex CableComms and Bell Cablemedia. The resulting company, to be named Cable & Wireless Communications, represents a direct challenge to BT's supremacy as it will set up Britain's largest provider of telecommunications, information and entertainment services. Although the company declined to put a value on the new company, analysts valued it at between \$5 billion and \$6 billion. The new company is expected to be listed on the London and New York stock exchanges by spring next year. C&W added. At current market values, the new C&W outfit will rank among the top 50 companies in the FTSE 100 with more than 13,000 employees. The flotation gives the partners the chance of raising new capital, although

sell-off details have yet to be agreed. Terms of the deal, set up in just three weeks, involve Bell Cablemedia, the third biggest force in the UK cable industry, taking full control of rival Videotron. The takeover, which was disclosed in Saturday's Guardian is worth \$685 million. This will be followed by the new Cable & Wireless Communications company buying out the enlarged Bell Cablemedia with its own shares. It is also making an all-paper offer for Nynex CableComms. C&W is to buy 5.17 per cent of Mercury for \$150 million from Bell Canada International, which bought a 20 per cent stake in the company for \$480 million in 1992. C&W will subsequently acquire the whole of Mercury for shares. The deal will see Cable & Wireless holding a majority

stake in the merger, with a near 53 per cent holding. Nynex Corporation, the US telecom operator, will hold 18.5 per cent, and Canadian-based Bell Canada International will be left with a holding of just over 14 per cent. The ground-breaking merger represents the first big move by C&W since the failure of its proposed merger with BT earlier this year. C&W's recently appointed chief executive hailed the deal as a "tremendous breakthrough". Mr Brown insisted that the increasing competition would result in cuts in telecom charges and an increase in on-line services, although he declined to spell out details. The merged cable companies would concentrate on building up their market share in their key catchment areas of Greater London,

Manchester and Leeds. He added: "CWC will be the only company in the UK capable of offering a combination of telephony, broadband, data transmission, video shopping and Internet access. This creates choice in the marketplace — the real winners are our customers." The company said the merger would create significant cost savings by eliminating "duplication in central services". Several hundred jobs are expected to go as a result of the merger, but C&W declined to comment on figures. Shares in the parent C&W company surged 25.5p to 468.5p on an announcement of the deal, in spite of City concerns about the size of the sums involved. Analysts at Credit Lyonnais Securities claimed a hefty premium was being paid for the merger.

Regulator says no to BSkyB promotion

TELECOMS regulator Don Cruickshank last night cracked down on a BT promotion offering cheaper phone bills to members of its Friends & Family discount scheme who sign up with the satellite broadcaster BSkyB. Mr Cruickshank has ordered BT to stop publicising the promotion, which gives Friends & Family members a special offer worth £99 when they join BSkyB. The regulator said that BT was breaching its licence. A BT spokesman said the company was "baffled" by the decision.

At last, a viable challenge to BT's near-monopoly

New line-up should go further than Mercury, writes Nicholas Bannister

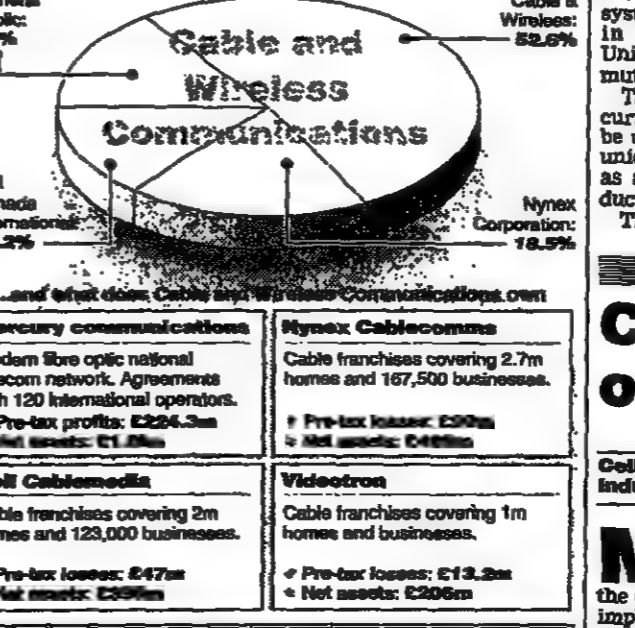
CABLE & Wireless has finally started to fulfil the role carved out for it by the Government 12 years ago — that of a viable competitor to British Telecom in the UK. C&W's original contender for the role, Mercury Communications, failed to make more than a dent in BT's business. It made a number of strategic mistakes, not least the decision to try to compete against BT across the board. It managed to create off a number of business customers, but failed to make any significant headway in the residential market. It had to pull out of the public pay-phone business. The new C&W line-up, announced yesterday, is an altogether different kettle of fish. Putting Mercury together with three leading cable companies creates the biggest threat so far to BT's near-

monopoly of the last few hundred yards of phone line into most homes and offices, which is the key to its success in the UK. Both Mercury and the cable companies have, or are building, high-capacity networks capable of handling new bandwidth-hungry services such as interactive television and video on the Internet. To make it all work, Cable & Wireless Communications, as the new venture is known, will have to invest heavily in software and in some new hardware. But the most expensive part of the business — digging up roads and pavements to lay new cable — is

well under way. Mercury's all-digital national network is complete. The cable company networks are more than 50 per cent built and should be finished by 1998. Mercury itself has recently undergone a dramatic restructuring and is back on the profits growth path while City analysts believe that the large cable companies are heading for breakeven within the next couple of years. The merger has been put together since the arrival of C&W's new chief executive Richard Brown. It augurs well for the group which badly needed new direction and purpose following the departure of its chairman, Lord Young, and chief executive, James Ross, since a bitter boardroom row last year. The new venture also

resolves the issue of Bell Canada's 20 per cent stake in Mercury, bought at the top of the market in 1992 for \$480 million. The Canadian group had hoped the purchase would lead to a close working relationship with C&W, but it never did. Yesterday's deal values Bell Canada's Mercury stake at \$380 million and leaves the group with a 14.2 per cent holding in a new and more exciting business. British Telecom said any move which consolidated the market was welcome. A spokesman said: "We have about 150 licensed competitors. We have seen the arrival this year of AT&T as a big competitor. The joining together of Mercury and others creates a more definable opposition. "We would like to see good solid competition with whom we can slug it out with fair, competitive and commercial terms and say goodbye to the industry regulator whose hand increasingly slips in to control what we do."

Britain's new telecom players



Manufacturers take cue from rising sales

RICHARD THOMAS, Economics Correspondent. **B**UOYANT high-street confidence is spilling over to the factory floor as a flood of new orders prompts firms to crank up production, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday. Unveiling its quarterly snapshot of manufacturing activity, an upbeat CBI said business optimism had risen for the second consecutive month as strong home sales outweighed weak export demand. The Government seized on the survey as new evidence that consumer-led growth was starting to lift the

industrial sector. Treasury minister Angela Knight said: "Recent surveys show consumer confidence at its highest level since 1988. Today's CBI survey shows that confidence is now reaching parts of the economy not previously reached." Andrew Burton, chairman of the confederation's economic affairs committee, said rising confidence, output and orders had persuaded factory owners to dust off investment plans — sending the level of planned spending on new plant and machinery to the highest level since April 1989. Overall, 36 per cent of firms said production had increased over the four months

to October, against 21 per cent reporting a drop in output. The CBI said the 15 per cent gap between these figures was the strongest since last July. Firms also reported lower raw material prices, as global commodity costs dropped. This allowed manufacturers to widen their profit margins for the first time since the beginning of 1995. Alex Garrard, UK economist at broker UBS, said: "With brighter prospects ahead manufacturers have ceased shedding jobs." The CBI said factory jobs remained almost static between July and October, compared to sharp falls in earlier surveys.

Daimler power struggle defers restructuring plans

JULIA GIBERTZ. **A**BOARDROOM power struggle yesterday forced the supervisory board of Germany's biggest industrial company, Daimler-Benz, to postpone until next year a radical restructuring planned for early November. Efforts by the group's chief executive Jürgen Schrempp to take more direct control over the main operating companies are running into fierce opposition from Helmut Werner, head of the Mercedes-Benz division, which accounts for about three-

quarters of the group's turnover of Dm103.5 billion (£42.2 billion). Mr Schrempp intends merging the three subsidiary firms — Mercedes, Daimler, the aerospace arm, and Debus, the financial services and IT division — with the parent holding company. He has secured the backing of the two smaller subsidiaries' boards, but Mr Werner, architect of Mercedes' cultural transformation from an old-fashioned, up-market car-maker into a flexible, innovative firm, is fighting to retain its independence. Yesterday's postponed

ment also means that a decision on the renewal of Mr Werner's contract as a member of the Daimler board, which expires at the end of next year, was put off. At Mercedes-Benz he can stay in office at least until 1997. Mr Werner's position has been strengthened because Mercedes largely accounted for Daimler's return to the black in the first half of this year after losing Dm5.7 billion last year, the heaviest loss in the company's history. Mr Schrempp's plans would reduce Mr Werner's influence.

Consumers 'unsure of gas competition'

Colin Weston, Industrial Correspondent

MILLIONS of gas consumers need to be better informed about the choices they have and the implications of competition in the gas supply industry, the Consumers' Association said yesterday. Only 14 per cent of 500,000 British Gas customers switched to other suppliers in the South West, the first trial area for the introduction of competition to 15 million domestic gas users. "It is clear there is a long way to go before competition is established in the domestic market," the association said responding to a consultation paper on competition from Ofgas, the industry regulator. An information campaign

should be funded through a levy on new and existing gas companies rather than paid for by consumers, it recommends. Ofgas had spent \$400,000 on publicity compared with the \$4.6 million spent by the Inland Revenue to promote tax self-assessment. It said the task of fostering competition for domestic consumers was not the same as for industrial and commercial consumers who were used to making choices. Clare Spottiswoode, director-general of Ofgas, said the introduction of competition into the gas industry had been a success. "The Consumers' Association says Ofgas and the Department of Trade and Industry must say what criteria will be used to assess whether effective competition has been established."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia	1.8845	France	7.8750	Italy	2.288
Austria	16.83	Germany	2.2670	Malta	0.2620
Belgium	48.68	Greece	372.75	Netherlands	2.6575
Canada	2.0825	Hong Kong	12.00	New Zealand	2.1725
Cyprus	0.7175	India	58.51	Norway	10.08
Denmark	8.10	Ireland	0.8650	Portugal	228.40
Finland	7.2380	Israel	5.18	Saudi Arabia	5.03
				Singapore	2.28

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Rugby League

Tour match: New Zealand Maoris 40, Great Britain 28

Nikau leaves Lions to lick the wounds

Andy Wilson in Whangarei

MORE than a Test series will be on the line when the Great Britain face New Zealand in Palmerston North on Friday. After this defeat the third in succession the Lions must win to prevent a tour which promised so much becoming a disaster.

The Maoris, superbly led by the former Castleford loose forward Tavera Nikau, exposed the lack of depth in a Lions squad missing many key players, just as a President's XIII had done a week earlier.

Again there was no lack of attacking ideas from the Lions side, especially from Karlie Hammond at stand-off. But the midfield team have now conceded 70 points and 13 tries in their two matches in New Zealand, statistics which must alarm the coach Phil Larder as he considers his options for Friday.

The Maoris established a 26-point lead with tries from

Jamie Stevens, having stolen the ball from Bernard Dwyer. Nikau and the outstanding full-back David Murray, who was recently deemed unfit by Auckland and is one of several Warriors players looking for an English club.

Individual efforts from Tony Smith, who nipped Murray, his old teammate, and from the Oldham forward Dave Bradbury put the Lions in touch at half-time, but immediately after the interval a powerful tackle by Murray forced an error from Nathan McAroy, promoted from the Under-19 Academy squad because of a back-line injury crisis - to gift the Maoris a fourth try through Neville Ramsay.

Hammond was again Britain's most penetrative player, setting up the first try for Dwyer and another for his St Helens team-mate Steve Prescott with an inspired kick behind the Maori defence. But the powerful centre Ricky Larder raised a doubt about Hammond's Test credentials by spinning out of his tackle

to send the winger Marion Gardiner in at the left corner. A far worse mistake by the young Warrington three-quarter Jon Roper allowed Jason Walker in for the Maoris' sixth try which ended Britain's hopes at 34-22.

Larder insisted that this defeat would have no bearing on his Test team, 13 of whom are already in Palmerston. He claims that Eddie Jones, Mather, a non-playing substitute yesterday, would be in the Test 17, either on the bench or at left-centre if Daryl Powell fails to recover from his hamstring injury.

That would leave two or three substitutes' places to be filled but no one made a completely convincing case against the Maoris. Hammond and Smith are almost certainly battling for one position, in the three-quarter contention. Steve Molloy suffered a facial injury inside 10 minutes, and Brian McDermott, dropped to make way for Terry O'Connor in Auckland, was industrious rather than inspired. Rowland Phillips, after coming on as a second-half substitute, did more damage with his ability to off-load in the tackle.

However, Larder may not pick a prop at all if he retains Chris Joynt as front-row replacement. In the event, Test, leaving a place for a back-row man. Adrian Morley, sin-binned last Friday, would then be a clear favourite.

Kitching lands double as juniors fight their way back with a win

GREAT Britain's Academy team bounced back from two consecutive defeats with a 36-10 victory over the Maori Colts in Whangarei yesterday.

Chris Kitching of Hull reinforced his claim to a place in Friday's second Test against the Junior Kiwis with two tries, one from the left wing and another when he switched to stand-off.

The young Lions led 16-8 at half-time with tries from the second-row man Kevin

O'Loughlin, the centre Lee Gilmour and the scrum-half Gavin Brown.

The impressive St Helens loose forward Paul Anderson was sin-binned early in the second half but Great Britain were always in control and as well as Kitching's double they scored tries through the full-back Marcus St. Helens, after more good work from Brown, and the Wigan hooker John Clarke, who took a superb pass from Terry Newton of Leeds.



On his way... Tallett breaks through the Maoris' defence

Newcastle with form for the Jackpot races

Table of horse racing results for Newcastle, including race numbers, names, and outcomes.

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Exeter National Hunt card

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Racing

Dr Livingston presumes he has a Turf star

Chris Hawkins writes from Toronto on the Breeders' Cup

AFTER two days of rain, a bright sunshine greeted the nine British Breeders' Cup raiders as they stepped onto the Woodbine track in Toronto for the first time yesterday morning.

A 12½-hour door-to-door journey from Newmarket appeared not to have taken too much out of them. But they must remain in quarantine until the results of blood samples clear them to mix with other horses.

The track was empty of all other animals as they were allowed to canter round the turf course for their first piece of exercise. Not all were given the opportunity, but the Godolphin runners - Mark of Esteem, Tamayaz, Charnwood Forest and Wall Street - plus John Gosden's Shantou, strode out freely on ground described as good to soft.

Local weather forecasters are expecting dry sunny conditions by the end of the week, which should mean virtually perfect going.

exertions: "He lost hardly any weight and didn't really seem to have a race."

The Turf Classic could feature among its 14 runners Rick's Natural Star, a 100-1 chance bought three months ago by Dr Bill Livingston for just \$5,000.

It is true to say that Rick's Natural Star is not a welcome runner and Livingston, a vet from New Mexico, has met all sorts of trouble getting him into the race, a \$60,000 supplementary entrance fee being the least of them.

The horse had entered calculations because neither Ziegler nor the first reserve, My Gamsun, have made the trip, but Rick's Natural Star has yet to pass the Woodbine vet and that might prove to be the final stumbling block.

Yarmouth

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Advertisement for RACELINE featuring Tony McCoy and Yarmouth Exeter results.

Advertisement for CHESTEROVY featuring various services and contact information.

Advertisement for PLUMPTON featuring various services and contact information.

Advertisement for WARRICK featuring various services and contact information.

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Soccer

Blades set for takeover by Conrad

Ian King

CONRAD, the Manchester-based leisure group, is in talks to buy Sheffield United for about £10 million, and if the deal goes through as expected the Bramall Lane club will become the latest to pick up a stock-market listing.

English Coca-Cola Cup, third round Blackburn Rovers 0, Stockport County 1 County set humble Rovers

Ian Ross

BLACKBURN'S embarrassment is now all but complete after they were knocked out of the League Cup by the Second Division journeymen of Stockport County.

Forest chairman threatens to quit

Peter White

NOTTINGHAM Forest's chairman Fred Reacher last night strongly suggested that he is ready to walk out on the troubled Premiership club.

Italy coach faces sack

GLENN HODDLE is likely to have to pit his wits against a new Italy coach in February's World Cup qualifier at Wembley, after reports that Arrigo Sacchi will be sacked next month.

Sacchi, who left Milan to take over as national coach in 1991, came under extreme pressure after Italy were surprisingly eliminated in the first phase of Euro 96, and his sacking seemed a formality after his main ally, Antonio Matarrese, resigned as FIGC president last month.



Tale of two cities... Leicester's Lennon (left), who later scored, battles in midfield with York's Randall at Bootham Crescent

York fall as Lennon sings the Blues

Michael Walker

MANCHESTER United last season, and Everton in the previous round this time, but there was no hat-trick of Premiership scalps in this competition for York City last night.

York City 0, Leicester City 2 were comfortably superior early on but brought Keller into notable action only once in the first half.

Gillingham 2, Coventry City 2

Ratcliffe gives Gills a second chance

Paul Weaver

SIMON RATCLIFFE pounced for a fine 76th-minute equaliser for Gillingham after Coventry had opened up a 2-0 lead over the Second Division side at the Priestfield Stadium.

But, after 10 minutes, Coventry began to establish some fragile poise, mainly through midfielder McAllister, who created an early opening for Dublin.

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, English Coca-Cola Cup, Scottish Coca-Cola Cup, American Football, Baseball, Chess, Hockey, Snooker, and Tennis.

Sport in brief

Boxing: Joe Calzaghe, the British super-middleweight champion from Newbridge, tripped in a hole on a training run and has called off tonight's title defence against Liverpool's Paul Wright in Halifax.

Scottish Coca-Cola Cup, semi-final

Dunfermline 1 Rangers 6

Danes strike at the double

Patrick Glenn

BRIAN LAUDRUP - and Dunfermline's hitherto buoyant fans - had no idea what he was starting when he kicked Rangers into life by opening the scoring at Parkhead last night.

Robertson played the ball to Albright, the German pulled it through a corner into the Dunfermline defence and Laudrup was suddenly bursting towards Lemajic, ball seemingly tied to his right foot.

Ice Hockey

Storm suffer stiff penalty

PENALTIES played a crucial part in the Berlin Capitals' 4-2 defeat of the Manchester Storm in the European League match in Manchester last night.

Rugby Union

Storm suffer stiff penalty

The Storm took too many of the 40 minutes to Berlin's 22; they failed to score with a penalty shot; and they could not score even when the Germans played the last three minutes two players short.

Cycling

Storm suffer stiff penalty

AXEL MERCKX, the 24-year-old son of the Belgian legend Eddy, has signed a two-year contract with the Italian team Polti.

Results

Soccer

English Coca-Cola Cup, third round

Blackburn Rovers 0, Stockport County 1

Vertical advertisements on the right margin including 'The Guardian', 'Hollis', 'The A tour', 'Robert Armstrong', 'Lewis' Wales ho', and 'The Guardian INTERACTIVE'.

Touring Lions crash to another defeat, page 13
Irish bid for Tour de France stage, page 15

Sheffield United on offer at £10m, page 14
Historic century for Campese, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER



Riding high... inspired by Newcastle's 5-0 demolition of Manchester United on Sunday, some 3,000 fans packed into the Maiden Castle training ground to watch the Premiership leaders going through their paces. They will be hoping for more of the same tonight when Kevin Keegan's men meet Oldham in the Coca-Cola Cup. PHOTOGRAPH: OWEN HUMPHREYS

English Coca-Cola Cup, third round: Bolton Wanderers 2, Chelsea 1

Sellars corners Chelsea

Paul Fitzpatrick

GOALS from John McGinlay and Nathan Blake, the most prolific partnership in the top two divisions, helped take a splendid Bolton Wanderers side past Chelsea at Burnden Park last night. The First Division's leaders went a goal down in the second minute but then showed all the flair and passion that has seen them remove such notable Cup opponents as Liverpool, Everton, Arsenal and Aston Villa in recent years.

On Saturday it was Wimbledon's Ekoku and Gayle who caused Chelsea so much bother. Last night McGinlay and Blake, whose play was outstanding from start to finish, caused them nearly as many problems and scored the vital goals in the first half. Chelsea could hardly have done with Vielli but the Italian was a late withdrawal with a hamstring strain. In his absence Chelsea were given few clear scoring opportunities although they pressed hard for an equaliser towards the end and Bolton were grateful for the final whistle. A bad night for Chelsea was not made better by four yellow cards, Hughes and Clarke following Johnson and Wise into Mr Poulain's notebook in the second half. Scott Minto scored Chelsea's first goal on Saturday after nine minutes. He wasted even less time here, finding the net after two. Branagan in the Bolton goal looked bewildered, uncertain perhaps whether he was the victim of an exquisite piece of skill and judgment or a fluke. Either way he was well beaten. Bolton could partly blame themselves for allowing Minto too much room as his angled run took him across the face of the penalty area.

By the time they appreciated the danger it was too late and his precise chip went in at the angle of post and bar with Branagan flailing. It was not difficult to recognise the Premiership side over the next 15 minutes as Chelsea knocked the ball about accurately and confidently; and there were a few Bolton hearts in mouths when Spencer was brought down from behind in the penalty area by Phillips. But the referee reckoned the Bolton man had played the ball and he looked correct. The best Bolton could manage in this period was a shot by Frandsen which cleared the roof of the supermarket that stands in a corner of Burnden Park. But much better was to come and by half-time a steadily improving Bolton had taken a deserved lead with goals from their two top scorers McGinlay and Blake. Both came from corners, which suggested that Chelsea were not learning their lessons. The first came in the 21st minute when McGinlay got enough angle on Sellars' corner to direct the ball well out of Hitchcock's reach. Then Blake, in the 43rd minute, repeated the close with a powerful, straight header after Sellars' corner, again from the right, was flicked on by Frandsen. It was McGinlay's 10th goal of the season and Blake's 11th. Chelsea's frustration was starting to show and what had been a clean game showed signs of spite as first Johnson, then Wise received yellow cards for reckless tack-

Sportsnight spiked in rights race



Frank Keating

THANKS, Sportsnight, and goodnight. The BBC admitted yesterday that its Wednesday evening fixture of 26 years is to be faded out. A new midweek sports programme will be launched next autumn on Tuesdays or Thursdays with a new title and format. It is another manifestation of the intense competition which has the ITV network and Sky tightening their grip on their rights to live football coverage of the Champions League and Premiership matches. The olde tyme sports presenters used to trumpet, "It's all happening here and now." And it certainly is for BBC-TV: in less than a fortnight it has lost the manic talsman Murray Walker and handed him and all Formula One's kit, caboodle and sponsors to ITV; and it has dug deep into its iron rations to keep laid-back Lynn from levitating to Sky. Now Sportsnight will be gone from Wednesdays. Sportsnight has lived exactly as long as colour television in Britain. I remember as if it were last week the night Sportsnight was launched with a great jangling explosion of self-esteem credits; and there was David Coleman full of beans and crazily enthusing over his presenter's menu. In those days the show was Sportsnight With Coleman. The opening titles of the already venerable 10-year-old Saturday afternoon outside-broadcast show Grandstand (born October 11 1986) still consisted of that boastfully evocative and dramatic campaign to show the four main sports of the day quartered in his lens. For Sportsnight With Coleman the zing and zang of the credits was much more of the light-entertainment style. And now, as must all old troopers who have run out of material, it has come to the final curtain — no encore. In those golden days one paid the annual and comparatively minuscule licence fee and could put one's feet up and watch the lot — but not any more, ever again. When Sportsnight began I was working for the ITV midweek company Associated Rediffusion as a pink-shirted tyro with beads round my

neck and a clip-boarded mini-skirt at my back. They called me editor of outside broadcasts. There were not many midweek ones for ITV to edit. "Nevertheless, get out and edit some," they said. "Take on Coleman with a vengeance." We had our Wednesday night staple, of course: all-in wrestling with good old Kent Walton at the ringside. But apart from that grunt and grapple our endevours — and how we endeavoured — did not come to much. We had no viewer response at all because, it seemed, we generally had no viewers. There was a slight bonus in that, of course, because giant Joe Foweraker and his merry band could sail into the stratosphere and no task, least of all our bosses, was any the wiser. Occasionally, in the wake of England's World Cup win in 1966, those bosses contrived to get ITV a midweek England soccer match at Wimbledon. Bobby Moore's team played Austria. It was ITV's first evening soccer recording — great spoils of foot-wide tape in those days. The schedule was so tight we had frantically chopped up and sellotaped together the first half while the second was still in progress. Austria played a bonny match and it was 2-2 until the 89th minute when the visitors scored their third, the dramatic winner. Not on ITV they didn't. For some reason in those days the national anthems at Wimbledon were played after the final whistle; in our fingers-and-thumbs gormlessness we dropped Austria's clinching goal on the floor and unknowingly stuck on two interminable anthems.

ON ITV anyway that match remains a 2-2 draw. Most viewers probably felt they had annoyed off and missed the goal. There were none of the endless angle replays from every angle then, in fact. By far the most letters and calls of complaint we had next day did not mention the missed goal but the content of our commentator's line which had closed the programme immediately after the protracted anthems. He was Gerry Loftus, a nice cove, a Lancastrian enthusiast who was football correspondent for the now defunct Reynolds News. Looking straight and earnestly at the camera, he demanded immediate changes in the England team with the words: "When he gets into bed tonight, the first thing Sir Alf Ramsey must determine to do is to get out his chopper." Sportsnight — we'll miss them.

Guardian Crossword No 20,791

20 A sign of nobody either way (4)
21 Parliamentary agenda to carry out 37 (5,5)
22 Evil writing across blackboard includes order for missile (5,4)
23 Trimetallic cutter? (5)
24 Present for a Baptist, perhaps (5)
25 Noah the yarn-spinner? (5)
Down
1 Where you formerly went in for the intervals? (5)
2 R for Restoration? Hardly (5)
3 Break-up of Tory policy designed to 22 (10)
4 One known to be tender when holding in charge (7)
5 Soldier found moutly growth (7)
6 Cause of Falstaff's dismissal? (4)
7 Time for a musical (5)
8 Curly collects payment for the 27 (5)
9 Try not to finish pork pie — when off it could be a gamble (5,5)
10 Immune from dismissal if taken back with admonishment? (5)
11 Yorkshire harvest gets the horse going (6,4)
12 The top came unstuck (4)
13 Retreat from endless hell into uneasy rest (7)
14 Old theologians interpret Micah in eastern currency (9)
15 Out of season (5)
16 Growth of prophet taking a rise out of a Roman Catholic (7)
17 Defective idea in building curtailed as lacking aesthetic appeal (7)
18 Bible's translation all right without one kind of antelope (7)
19 Cheese parasites, in short (7)

Set by Gordius

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Cash squeeze threatens rugby clubs

Insolvency looms as talks break down yet again, reports Robert Armstrong

A NUMBER of Courage League One clubs edged closer to insolvency last night because of the latest breakdown in talks between the Rugby Football Union and leading club negotiators. The discussions which have occupied several days since October 11 failed to reach any conclusions and there is now a real possibility that the England side to play Italy next month will be picked from League Three players. It also delays further the chance of the clubs getting their hands on television revenue, and several privately admit they have in-

stood to be facing cash-flow problems. Bristol's treasurer Jeff Lewis said last night that they were working closely with their bank and were considering selling the club assets at the Memorial Ground and making a fresh issue of shares available to supporters. Sale have made swingeing cuts in the bonus system agreed at the start of the season and Orrell have backed away from employing players as full-time professionals. West Hartlepool too are having second thoughts about making fresh long-term commitments without RFU support. Last night Epruc's chairman Donald Kerr accused Twickenham of tearing up an agreement which had brought them close to settling the dispute. He also claimed Epruc had been offered £200,000 by the RFU to disband. "We very nearly reached an agreement. We had drafted that agreement and then last night they faced through to us a completely different agreement where they retracted everything they had agreed at the first series of meetings." Epruc, whose members are the players' employers, is now threatening to sue Twickenham and the game's worldwide controller, the International Board. Twickenham replied by saying it would go over the heads of the Epruc negotiators and appeal directly to the 24 clubs. "We do not believe they have consulted with their members with regard to our proposed agreement."

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a heroic leader, af
was a great sports
and a large part in a
national club and a
computer
But the future to the
London Herald, who was
a hero in the early 1980s
is returned from a week
of hospital after a stroke
and is now in a coma.
The Herald's widow, Mrs
Bridget, lives at Slane
Park, Co. Wick.
I was shocked by the
news of Matthew's tragic
death, said the Prime Min
ister, John Major, in a follow
up session and he did a
great amount to help the
club's north stand.
Chelsea have announced
that Mr Harding's money
inside

Dr. J. J. J. J.